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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 001182

SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/PCI PAYNE; IP/G/NEA CBOURGEOIS, JGAFFNEY;
ECA/R RUTH

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: UPDATE ON JORDAN GLOBE PROGRAM

REF: A) SECSTATE 06351 B) 2002 AMMAN 4426

1. PER REF A, POST HAS IMPRESSED UPON THE LOCAL GLOBE COORDINATOR THE IMPORTANCE OF JORDANIAN STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ATTENDING THE UPCOMING GLOBE LEARNING EXPEDITION IN CROATIA. THROUGH THE NEA REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT OFFICE (REO), BASED IN AMMAN, WE ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN ASSISTING THE JORDAN GLOBE PROGRAM IN NUMEROUS WAYS.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, UPON A REQUEST FROM THE REO IN 1999, A LOCAL INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE FREE INTERNET ACCESS FOR 13 UNDERPRIVILEGED GLOBE SCHOOLS IN JORDAN. THIS HAS ALLOWED THE PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS TO MORE EASILY CONDUCT THE DATA ENTRY AND DATA SHARING THAT IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF GLOBE'S MISSION.

3. IN JANUARY 2002, GLOBE JORDAN INTRODUCED ITS PROGRAM TO JORDANIAN SCIENTISTS AT A PUBLIC FORUM THROUGH PRESENTATIONS BY THE GLOBE COORDINATOR AND STUDENTS. AT THE SAME EVENT, THE REO ENCOURAGED JORDANIAN PROFESSORS AND SCIENTISTS TO PARTNER WITH GLOBE SCHOOLS AND ACT AS MENTORS FOR GLOBE STUDENTS. SCIENTISTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO USE GLOBE DATA FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS IN THEIR RESEARCH, IF POSSIBLE, AND TO EXPOSE GLOBE STUDENTS TO WAYS IN WHICH THEIR DATA CAN HAVE APPLICATION IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. THE REO PROMOTED THESE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GLOBE SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO BROADEN JORDANIAN YOUTH'S UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 5 UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS WHO ARE DONATING THEIR TIME TO THE JORDAN GLOBE PROGRAM AND ACTING AS ADVISORS TO STUDENTS WITH THEIR DATA COLLECTION AND PROJECTS.

4. POST ALSO HAS ENCOURAGED THE JORDAN GLOBE PROGRAM TO CONSIDER CONDUCTING REGIONAL PROJECTS INVOLVING GLOBE STUDENTS FROM SEVERAL NEA COUNTRIES COLLABORATING ON A COMMON ISSUE. TO THIS END, IN JUNE 2002, GLOBE JORDAN HOSTED A REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN AQABA WITH GLOBE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM LEBANON AND BAHRAIN. A SECOND REGIONAL GLOBE WORKSHOP, ORGANIZED BY GLOBE JORDAN, FOR STUDENTS FROM LEBANON, BAHRAIN AND JORDAN WAS HOSTED IN LEBANON IN JULY 2002. THE EGYPT GLOBE PROGRAM ALSO SENT AN OBSERVER TO THIS EVENT, FOLLOWING REO'S MEETING IN CAIRO WITH GLOBE COORDINATORS AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS IN APRIL 2002. THE SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOCUSED ON SEAWATER CHARACTERISTICS, FOR WHICH THE STUDENTS PRODUCED COUNTRY-SPECIFIC REPORTS AND A JOINT "COMPARATIVE STUDY PAPER" ON THE TOPIC. A THIRD FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP, INVOLVING JORDAN, LEBANON, BAHRAIN, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA (AS OBSERVER), HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2003 IN BAHRAIN, BUT WAS POSTPONED.

5. THE REO FACILITATED A MEETING BETWEEN GLOBE JORDAN AND EMBASSY AMMAN PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING GLOBE THROUGH EXISTING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. REO AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE GLOBE COORDINATOR TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING THROUGH MEPI. WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING USING THE SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AS ANOTHER MEANS TO LINK JORDANIAN GLOBE STUDENTS WITH THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS.

6. IN AN ATTEMPT TO HELP GLOBE JORDAN OVERCOME THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IT HAS HAD IN RAISING FUNDS TO PURCHASE SCIENTIFIC KITS AND CONDUCT ACTIVITIES, THE REO OFFERED A GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP FOR JORDANIAN NGO'S AND OFFICIALS, AMONG WHOM WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM GLOBE, IN AUGUST 2002 (REF B). WE HAVE ALSO PUT THE GLOBE JORDAN COORDINATOR IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SO THAT THEY CAN SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM. FINALLY, WE ARE COORDINATING WITH THE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE AT EMBASSY AMMAN TO INTRODUCE THE GLOBE PROGRAM TO THE JORDAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AS A POSSIBLE RECIPIENT OF CORPORATE GOOD CITIZENSHIP. BY RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS ABOUT GLOBE, WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORTING GLOBE ACTIVITIES.

7. BACKGROUND ON GLOBE PROGRAM IN JORDAN: THE GLOBE/JORDAN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON OCTOBER 31, 1996, BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES, RURAL AFFAIRS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN. THE MINISTRY DESIGNATED A JORDANIAN NGO, THE FRIENDS OF ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY (FOE), TO COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT GLOBE ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT JORDAN. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 23 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN GLOBE.

18. THE FOE IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1994 AND IS DEDICATED TO ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THEIR ENVIRONMENT. IT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE COORDINATOR OF THE GLOBE PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROVIDING STAFF TRAINING FOR FLEDGLING GLOBE PROGRAMS IN OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.
GNEHM